

Appendix A

Detailed Description of Management Practices for Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plans

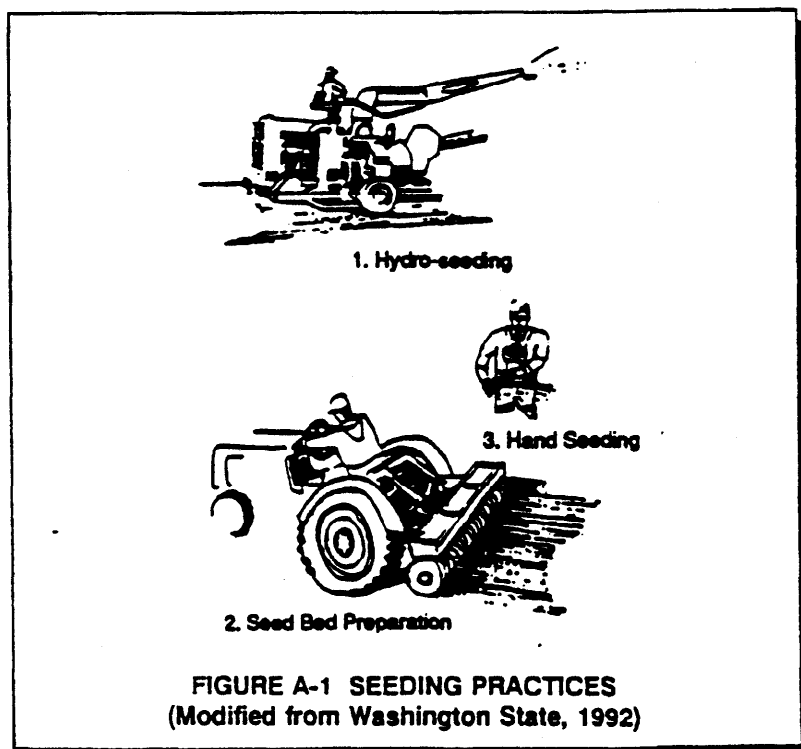
This appendix contains information from EPA's *Storm Water Management for Construction Activities, Developing Pollution Prevention Plans and Best Management Practices* (EPA 1992). Sediment and erosion stabilization practices are described first, followed by structural erosion and sediment controls. Finally, identification and control of potential sources of pollution at the INEEL are described under "Other Management Practices."

SEDIMENT AND EROSION CONTROL STABILIZATION
BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Temporary Seeding

What Is It

Temporary seeding means growing a short-term vegetative cover (plants) on disturbed site areas that may be in danger of erosion. The purpose of temporary seeding is to reduce erosion and sedimentation by stabilizing disturbed areas that will not be stabilized for long periods of time or where permanent plant growth is not necessary or appropriate. This practice uses fast-growing grasses whose root systems hold down the soils so that they are less apt to be carried offsite by storm water runoff or wind. Temporary seeding also reduces the problems associated with mud and dust from bare soil surfaces during construction.



When and Where to Use It

Temporary seeding should be performed on areas which have been disturbed by construction and which are likely to be redisturbed, but not for several weeks or more. Typical areas might include denuded areas, soil stockpiles, dikes, dams, sides of sediment basins, and temporary roadbanks. Temporary seeding should take place as soon as practicable after the last land disturbing activity in an area. Check the requirements of your permit for the maximum amount of time allowed between the last disturbance of an area and temporary stabilization. Temporary seeding may not be an effective practice in arid and semi-arid regions where the climate prevents fast plant growth, particularly during the dry seasons. In those areas, mulching or chemical stabilization may be better for the short-term (see sections on Mulching, Geotextiles, and Chemical Stabilization).

What to Consider

Proper seed bed preparation and the use of high-quality seed are needed to grow plants for effective erosion control. Soil that has been compacted by heavy traffic or machinery may need to be loosened. Successful growth usually requires that the soil be tilled before the seed is applied. Topsoiling is not necessary for temporary seeding; however, it may improve the chances of establishing temporary vegetation in an area. Seed bed preparation may also require applying fertilizer and/or lime to the soil to make conditions more suitable for plant growth. Proper fertilizer, seeding mixtures, and seeding rates vary depending on the location of the site, soil types, slopes, and season. Local suppliers, State and local regulatory agencies, and the USDA Soil Conservation Service will supply information on the best seed mixes and soil conditioning methods.

Seeded areas should be covered with mulch to provide protection from the weather. Seeding on slopes of 2:1 or more, in adverse soil conditions, during excessively hot or dry weather, or where heavy rain is expected should be followed by spreading mulch (see section on Mulching). Frequent inspections are necessary to check that conditions for growth are good. If the plants do not grow quickly or thick enough to prevent erosion, the area should be reseeded as soon as possible. Seeded areas should be kept adequately moist. If normal rainfall will not be enough, mulching, matting, and controlled watering should be done. If seeded areas are watered, watering rates should be watched so that over-irrigation (which can cause erosion itself) does not occur.

Advantages of Temporary Seeding
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is generally inexpensive and easy to do• Establishes plant cover fast when conditions are good• Stabilizes soils well, is aesthetic, and can provide sedimentation controls for other site areas• May help reduce costs of maintenance on other erosion controls (e.g., sediment basins may need to be cleaned out less often)
Disadvantages of Temporary Seeding
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Depends heavily on the season and rainfall rate for success• May require extensive fertilizing of plants grown on some soils, which can cause problems with local water quality• Requires protection from heavy use, once seeded• May produce vegetation that requires irrigation and maintenance

Mulching

What Is It

Mulching is a temporary soil stabilization or erosion control practice where materials such as grass, hay, woodchips, wood fibers, straw, or gravel are placed on the soil surface. In addition to stabilizing soils, mulching can reduce the speed of storm water runoff over an area. When used together with seeding or planting, mulching can aid in plant growth by holding the seeds, fertilizers, and topsoil in place, by helping to retain moisture, and by insulating against extreme temperatures.

When and Where to Use It

Mulching is often used alone in areas where temporary seeding cannot be used because of the season or climate. Mulching can provide immediate, effective, and inexpensive erosion control. On steep slopes and critical areas such as waterways, mulch matting is used with netting or anchoring to hold it in place.

Mulch seeded and planted areas where slopes are steeper than 2:1, where runoff is flowing across the area, or when seedlings need protection from bad weather.

What to Consider

Use of mulch may or may not require a binder, netting, or the tacking of mulch to the ground. Final grading is not necessary before mulching. Mulched areas should be inspected often to find where mulched material has been loosened or removed. Such areas should be reseeded (if necessary) and the mulch cover replaced immediately. Mulch binders should be applied at rates recommended by the manufacturer.

Advantages of Mulching

- Provides immediate protection to soils that are exposed and that are subject to heavy erosion
- Retains moisture, which may minimize the need for watering
- Requires no removal because of natural deterioration of mulching and matting

Disadvantages of Mulching

- May delay germination of some seeds because cover reduces the soil surface temperature
- Mulch can be easily blown or washed away by runoff if not secured
- Some mulch materials such as wood chips may absorb nutrients necessary for plant growth

Geotextiles

What Are They

Geotextiles are porous fabrics known in the construction industry as filter fabrics, road rugs, synthetic fabrics, construction fabrics, or simply fabrics. Geotextiles are manufactured by weaving or bonding fibers made from synthetic materials such as polypropylene, polyester, polyethylene, nylon, polyvinyl chloride, glass and various mixtures of these. As a synthetic construction material, geotextiles are used for a variety of purposes in the United States and foreign countries. The uses of geotextiles include separators, reinforcement, filtration and drainage, and erosion control. We will discuss the use of geotextiles in preventing erosion at construction sites in this section.

Some geotextiles are also biodegradable materials such as mulch matting and netting. Mulch mattings are materials (jute or other wood fibers) that have been formed into sheets of mulch that are more stable than normal mulch. Netting is typically made from jute, other wood fiber, plastic, paper, or cotton and can be used to hold the mulching and matting to the ground. Netting can also be used alone to stabilize soils while the plants are growing; however, it does not retain moisture or temperature well. Mulch binders (either asphalt or synthetic) are sometimes used instead of netting to hold loose mulches together.

When and Where to Use Them

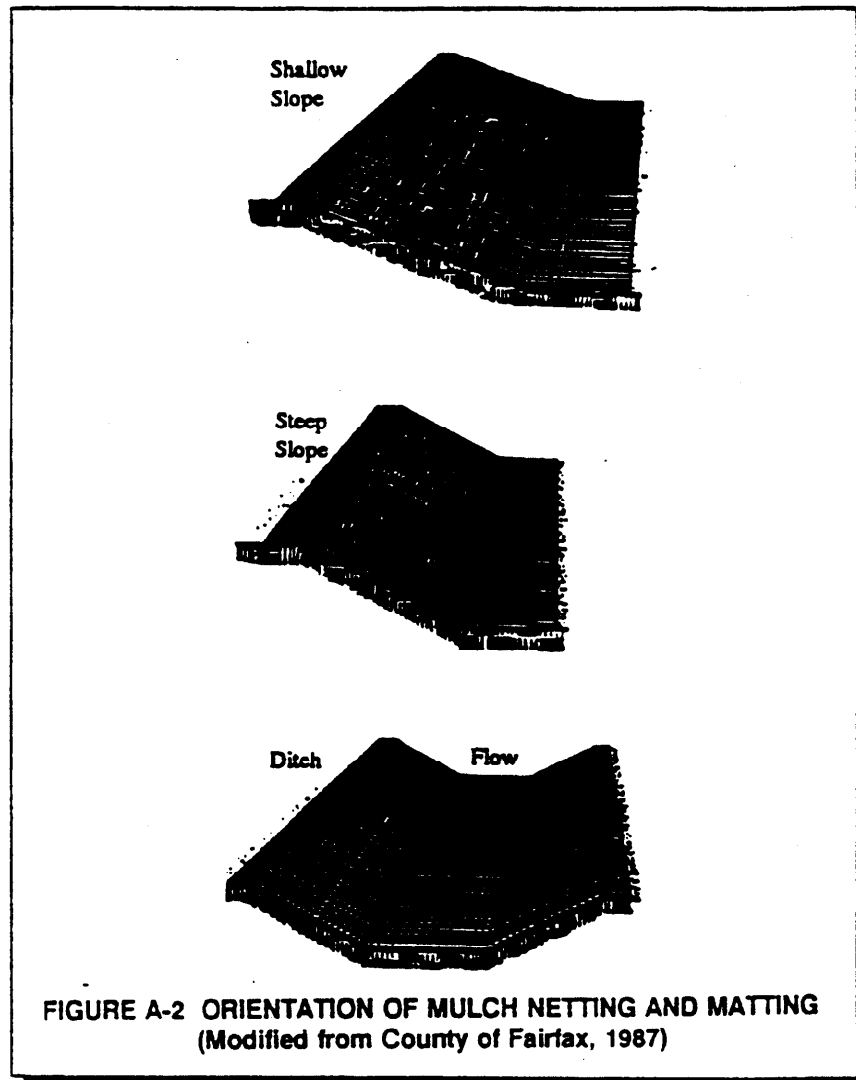
Geotextiles can be used for erosion control by using it alone. Geotextiles, when used alone, can be used as matting. Mattings are used to stabilize the flow on channels and swales. Also, matting is used on recently planted slopes to protect seedlings until they become established. Also, matting may be used on tidal or stream banks where moving water is likely to wash out new plantings.

Geotextiles are also used as separators. An example of such a use is geotextile as a separator between riprap and soil. This "sandwiching" prevents the soil from being eroded from beneath the riprap and maintaining the riprap's base.

What to Consider

As stated above, the types of geotextiles available are vast, therefore, the selected fabric should match its purpose. Also, State or local requirements, design procedures, and any other applicable requirements should also be consulted. In the field, important concerns include regular inspections to determine if cracks, tears, or breaches are present in the fabric and appropriate repairs should be made.

Effective netting and matting require firm, continuous contact between the materials and the soil. If there is no contact, the material will not hold the soil and erosion will occur underneath the material.



Advantages of Geotextiles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fabrics are relatively inexpensive for certain applications • Offer convenience to the installer • Design methodologies for the use of geotextiles are available • A wide variety of geotextiles to match specific needs are available • Mulch matting and netting are biodegradable
Disadvantages of Geotextiles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the fabric is not properly selected, designed, or installed, the effectiveness may be reduced drastically • Many synthetic geotextiles are sensitive to light and must be protected prior to installation

Chemical Stabilization

What Is It

Chemical stabilization practices, often referred to as a chemical mulch, soil binder, or soil palliative, are temporary erosion control practices. Materials made of vinyl, asphalt, or rubber are sprayed onto the surface of the soil to hold the soil in place and protect against erosion from storm water runoff and wind. Many of the products used for chemical stabilization are human-made, and many different products are on the market.

When and Where to Use It

Chemical stabilization can be used as an alternative in areas where temporary seeding practices cannot be used because of the season or climate. It can provide immediate, effective, and inexpensive erosion control anywhere erosion is occurring on a site.

What to Consider

The application rates and procedures recommended by the manufacturer of a chemical stabilization product should be followed as closely as possible to prevent the products from forming ponds and from creating large areas where moisture cannot get through.

Advantages of Chemical Stabilization

- Is easily applied to the surface of the soil
- Is effective in stabilizing areas where plants will not grow
- Provides immediate protection to soils that are in danger of erosion

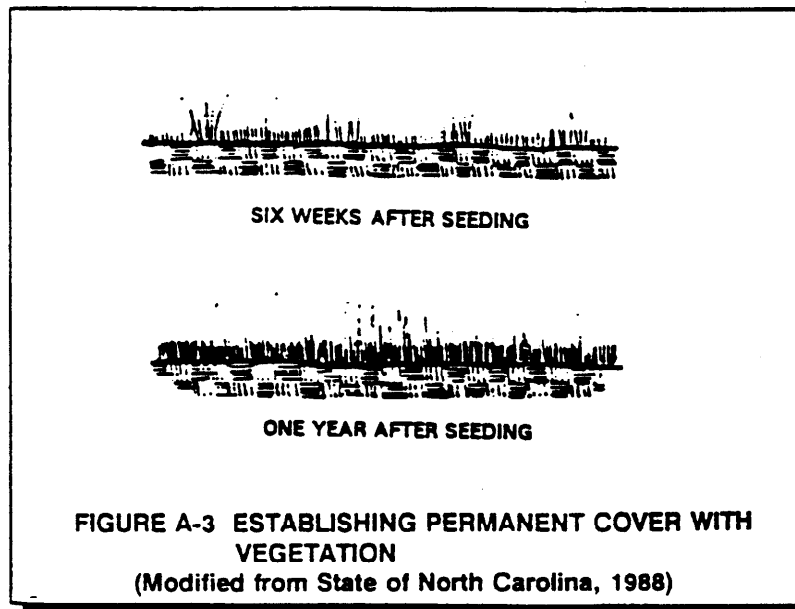
Disadvantages of Chemical Stabilization

- Can create impervious surfaces (where water cannot get through), which may in turn increase the amount and speed of storm water runoff
- May cause harmful effects on water quality if not used correctly
- Is usually more expensive than vegetative cover

Permanent Seeding and Planting

What Is It

Permanent seeding of grass and planting trees and brush provides stabilization to the soil by holding soil particles in place. Vegetation reduces sediments and runoff to downstream areas by slowing the velocity of runoff and permitting greater infiltration of the runoff. Vegetation also filters sediments, helps the soil absorb water, improves wildlife habitats, and enhances the aesthetics of a site.



When and Where to Use It

Permanent seeding and planting is appropriate for any graded or cleared area where long-lived plant cover is desired. Some areas where permanent seeding is especially important are filter strips, buffer areas, vegetated swales, steep slopes, and stream banks. This practice is effective on areas where soils are unstable because of their texture, structure, a high water table, high winds, or high slope.

What to Consider

For this practice to work, it is important to select appropriate vegetation, prepare a good seedbed, properly time planting, and to condition the soil. Planting local plants during their regular growing season will increase the chances for success and may lessen the need for watering. Check seeded areas frequently for proper watering and growth conditions.

When seeding in cold climates during fall or winter, cover the area with mulch to provide a protective barrier against cold weather (see Mulching). Seeding should also be mulched if the seeded area slopes 4:1 or more, if soil is sandy or clayey, or if weather is excessively hot or dry.

Plant when conditions are most favorable for growth. When possible, use low-maintenance local plant species.

Topsoil should be used on areas where topsoils have been removed, where the soils are dense or impermeable, or where mulching and fertilizers alone cannot improve soil quality. Topsoiling should be coordinated with the seeding and planting practices and should not be planned while the ground is frozen or too wet. Topsoil layers should be at least 2 inches deep (or similar to the existing topsoil depth).

To minimize erosion and sedimentation, remove as little existing topsoil as possible. All site controls should be in place before the topsoil is removed. If topsoils are brought in from another site, it is important that its texture is compatible with the subsoils onsite; for example, sandy topsoils are not compatible with clay subsoils.

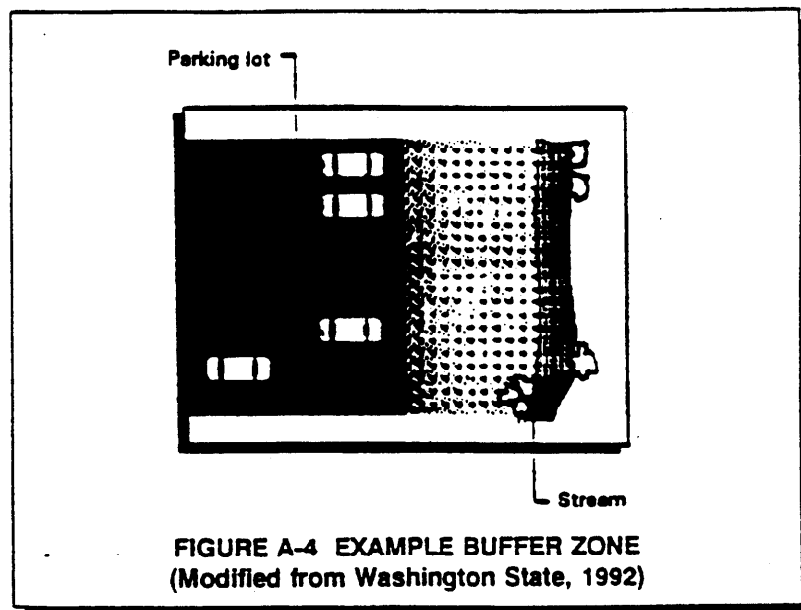
Stockpiling of topsoils onsite requires good planning so soils will not obstruct other operations. If soil is to be stockpiled, consider using temporary seeding, mulching, or silt fencing to prevent or control erosion. Inspect the stockpiles frequently for erosion. After topsoil has been spread, inspect it regularly, and reseed or replace areas that have eroded.

Advantages of Permanent Seeding and Planting
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improves the aesthetics of a site• Provides excellent stabilization• Provides filtering of sediments• Provides wildlife habitat• Is relatively inexpensive
Disadvantages of Permanent Seeding and Planting
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• May require irrigation to establish vegetation• Depends initially on climate and weather for success

Buffer Zones

What Are They

Buffer zones are vegetated strips of land used for temporary or permanent water quality benefits. Buffer zones are used to decrease the velocity of storm water runoff, which in turn helps to prevent soil erosion. Buffer zones are different from vegetated filter strips (see section on Vegetated Filter Strips) because buffer zone effectiveness is not measured by its ability to improve infiltration (allow water to go into the ground). The buffer zone can be an area of vegetation that is left undisturbed during construction, or it can be newly planted.



When and Where to Use Them

Buffer zones technique can be used at any site that can support vegetation. Buffer zones are particularly effective on floodplains, next to wetlands, along stream banks, and on steep, unstable slopes.

What to Consider

If buffer zones are preserved, existing vegetation, good planning, and site management are needed to protect against disturbances such as grade changes, excavation, damage from equipment, and other activities. Establishing new buffer strips requires the establishment of a good dense turf, trees, and shrubs (see Permanent Seeding and Planting). Careful maintenance is important to ensure healthy vegetation. The need for routine maintenance such as mowing, fertilizing, liming, irrigating, pruning, and weed and pest control will depend on the species of plants and trees involved, soil types, and climatic conditions. Maintaining planted areas may require debris removal and protection against unintended uses or traffic. Many State/local storm water program or zoning

agencies have regulations which define required or allowable buffer zones especially near sensitive areas such as wetlands. Contact the appropriate State/local agencies for their requirements.

Advantages of Buffer Zones
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide aesthetic as well as water quality benefits• Provide areas for infiltration, which reduces amount and speed of storm water runoff• Provide areas for wildlife habitat• Provide areas for recreation• Provide buffers and screens for onsite noise if trees or large bushes are used• Low maintenance requirements• Low cost when using existing vegetation
Disadvantages of Buffer Zones
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• May not be cost effective to use if the cost of land is high• Are not feasible if land is not available• Require plant growth before they are effective

Preservation of Natural Vegetation

What Is It

The preservation of natural vegetation (existing trees, vines, brushes, and grasses) provides natural buffer zones. By preserving stabilized areas, it minimizes erosion potential, protects water quality, and provides aesthetic benefits. This practice is used as a permanent control measure.

When and Where to Use It

This technique is applicable to all types of sites. Areas where preserving vegetation can be particularly beneficial are floodplains, wetlands, stream banks, steep slopes, and other areas where erosion controls would be difficult to establish, install, or maintain.

What to Consider

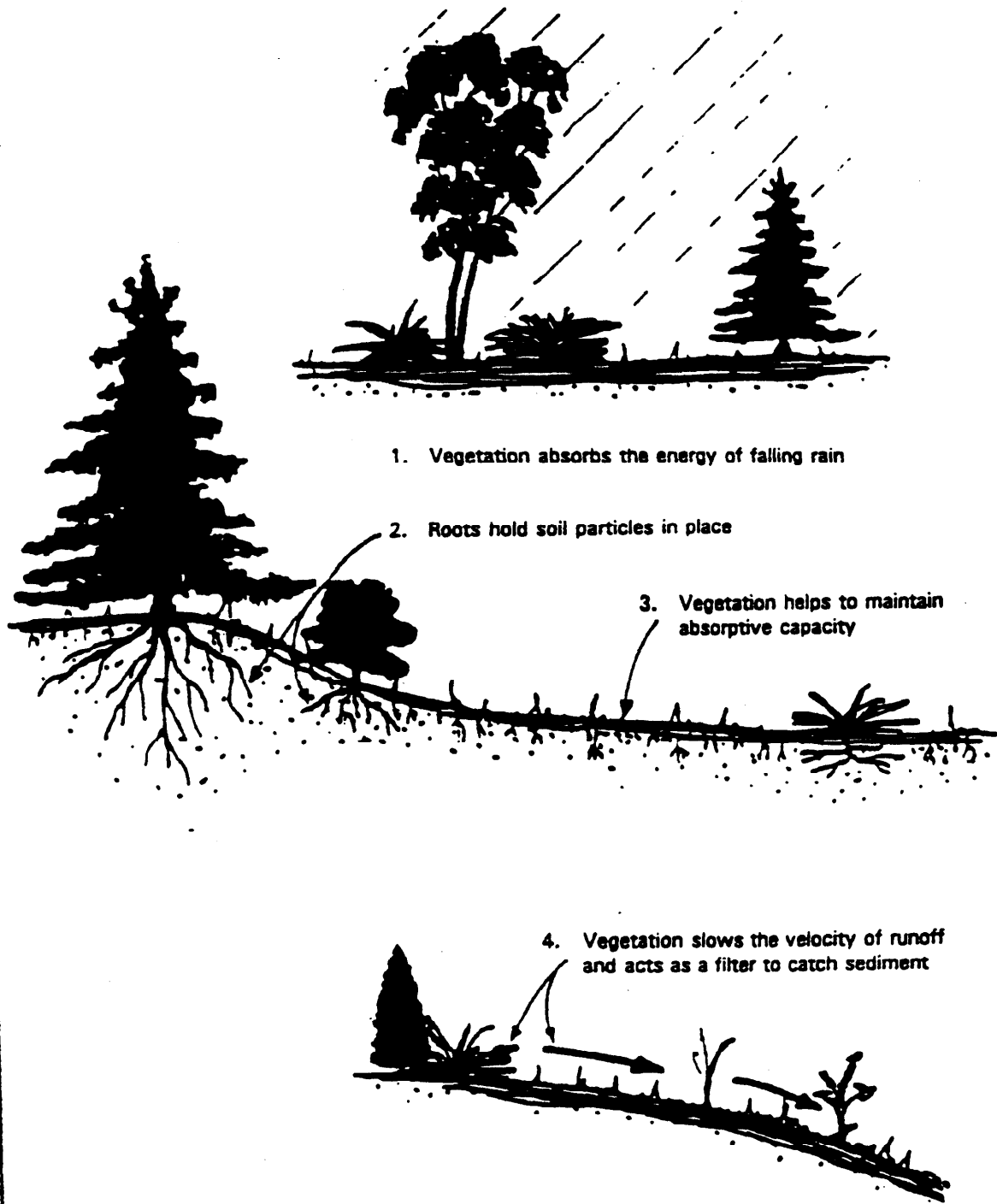
Preservation of vegetation on a site should be planned before any site disturbance begins. Preservation requires good site management to minimize the impact of construction activities on existing vegetation. Clearly mark the trees to be preserved and protect them from ground disturbances around the base of the tree. Proper maintenance is important to ensure healthy vegetation that can control erosion. Different species, soil types, and climatic conditions will require different maintenance activities such as mowing, fertilizing, liming, irrigation, pruning, and weed and pest control. Some State/local regulations require natural vegetation to be preserved in sensitive areas; consult the appropriate State/local agencies for more information on their regulations. Maintenance should be performed regularly, especially during construction.

Advantages of Preservation of Natural Vegetation

- Can handle higher quantities of storm water runoff than newly seeded areas
- Does not require time to establish (i.e., effective immediately)
- Increases the filtering capacity because the vegetation and root structure are usually denser in preserved natural vegetation than in newly seeded or bare areas
- Enhances aesthetics
- Provides areas for infiltration, reducing the quantity and velocity of storm water runoff
- Allows areas where wildlife can remain undisturbed
- Provides noise buffers and screens for onsite operations
- Usually requires less maintenance (e.g., irrigation, fertilizer) than planting new vegetation

Disadvantages of Preservation of Natural Vegetation

- Requires planning to preserve and maintain the existing vegetation
- May not be cost effective with high land costs
- May constrict area available for construction activities



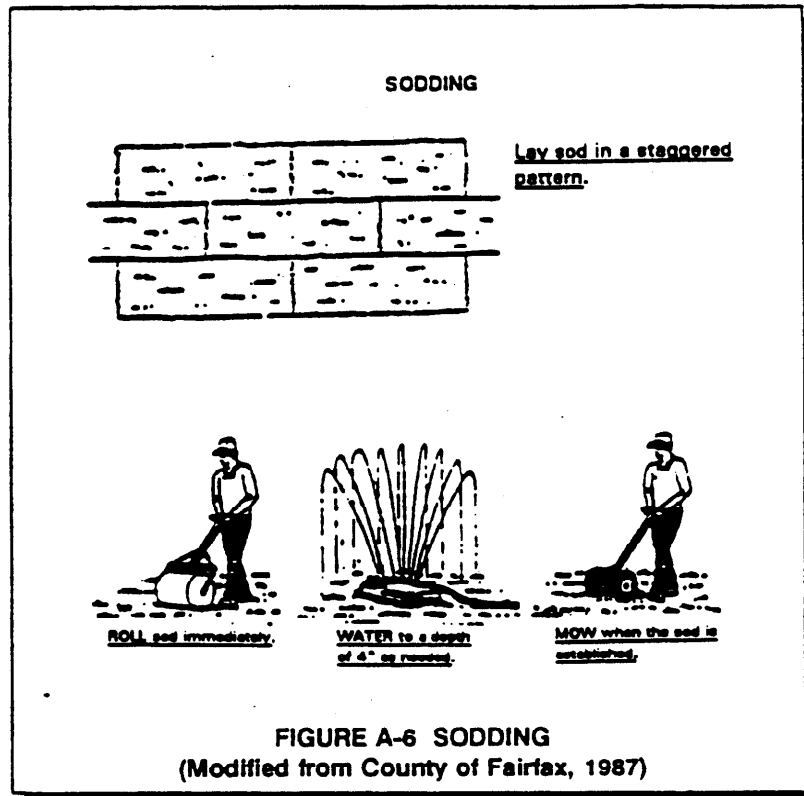
Construction Operations Relative to Location of Protected Trees

FIGURE A-5 BENEFITS OF PRESERVING NATURAL VEGETATION
(Modified from Washington State, 1992)

Sod Stabilization

What Is It

Sodding stabilizes an area by immediately covering the surface with vegetation and providing areas where storm water can infiltrate into the ground.



When and Where to Use It

Sodding is appropriate for any graded or cleared area that might erode and where a permanent, long-lived plant cover is needed immediately. Examples of where sodding can be used are buffer zones, stream banks, dikes, swales, slopes, outlets, level spreaders, and filter strips.

What to Consider

The soil surface should be fine-graded before laying down the sod. Topsoil may be needed in areas where the soil textures are inadequate (see topsoil discussion in section on Permanent Seeding and Planting). Lime and fertilizers should be added to the soil to promote good growth conditions. Sodding can be applied in alternating strips or other patterns, or alternate areas can be seeded to reduce expense. Sod should not be planted during very hot or wet weather. Sod should not be placed on slopes that are greater than 3:1 if they are to be mowed. If placed on steep slopes, sod should be laid with staggered joints and/or be pegged. In areas such as steep slopes or next to

running waterways, chicken wire, jute, or other netting can be placed over the sod for extra protection against lifting (see Mulching and Geotextiles). Roll or compact immediately after installation to ensure firm contact with the underlying topsoil. Inspect the sod frequently after it is first installed, especially after large storm events, until it is established as permanent cover. Remove and replace dead sod. Watering may be necessary after planting and during periods of intense heat and/or lack of rain (drought).

Advantages of Sod Stabilization
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can provide immediate vegetative cover and erosion control• Provides more stabilizing protection than initial seeding through dense cover formed by sod• Produces lower weed growth than seeded vegetation• Can be used for site activities within a shorter time than can seeded vegetation• Can be placed at any time of the year as long as moisture conditions in the soil are favorable
Disadvantages of Sod Stabilization
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Purchase and installation costs are higher than for seeding• May require continued irrigation if the sod is placed during dry seasons or on sandy soils